



TO: John F. McDonough, City Manager

FROM: Garrin M. Coleman, P.E., Public Works Director

DATE: May 4, 2017 for Submission onto the Agenda of the May 16, 2017 City Council Meeting

ITEM: Roswell Road/SR 9/US 19 Transit Access Project – Atlanta Regional Commission 2017 TIP Solicitation

Recommendation:

Staff recommends submitting an application to the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) for the 2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Solicitation for the Roswell Road/SR 9/US 19 Transit Access Project.

Background:

The ARC periodically opens a call for projects to award federal funding to projects for inclusion in the long-range Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The last ARC project solicitation was in 2015. The current project solicitation opened on February 17 and closes on May 17, 2017. For fiscal years (FY) 2019 through 2021, ARC has estimated it has approximately \$140 million in Surface Transportation Block Grant, \$21 million in Transportation Alternatives, and \$69 million in Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program funds available for award during that time period.

The City of Sandy Springs is currently reviewing the cost and funding of its local projects following the approval of the Transportation Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (TSPLOST) in November 2016. As a result of transferring some existing projects included in the adopted RTP/TIP to local funding, the City estimates that ARC could reallocate approximately \$6.3 Million in Surface Transportation Block Grant funding currently programmed for the CIP T-0011 Johnson Ferry Road/Mt. Vernon Highway Roundabout project (FN-221, PI 751420) in FY 18 to another eligible City project. ARC staff has advised the City that any new project for consideration of funding requires a project application from the City during the 2017 TIP Solicitation.

Discussion:

Staff has been coordinating with ARC, Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT), and MARTA to identify an opportunity to re-program funds within FY 18 to another transportation need within Sandy Springs. Staff recommends reallocating the funds to a transit access project on Roswell Road/SR 9/US 19 between the City of Atlanta limits to I-285 to complete the pedestrian network to serve MARTA Bus Route 5 (Piedmont Rd/Sandy Springs). The annual

weekday ridership of Route 5 exceeds one million annual boardings. The Roswell Road/SR 9/US 19 transit access project will provide a minimum six-foot wide sidewalks, ADA curb ramps, accessible bus stop pads, streetscape elements (lighting, brick pavers, and landscaping) to provide 100% walk-up access to transit on Roswell Road. Currently, the city is undertaking a sidewalk project with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding to provide pedestrian access from Long Island Drive to Northwood Drive on the west side of Roswell Road/SR 9 as well as an intersection safety project at Glenridge Drive (CIP T-0043), which will provide sidewalk connections on the east side of the street as well as an intersection realignment. The proposed transit pedestrian access project will fill the remaining gaps on the east and west sides of Roswell Rd/SR 9.

The proposed project has been included in a number of the City's adopted plans, including the Transportation Master Plan; Roswell Road Livable Initiative Study; Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Trail Plan; The Next 10 Comprehensive Plan; and Roswell Road Small Area Plan. In 2009, the City initiated the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) project T-0019, Roswell Road Streetscape to initiate concept design of pedestrian improvements and streetscape

In order for the City to expedite the project and reprogram the FY 18 funding, staff has requested "Flexing" Federal Highway funding to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for purposes of project delivery. MARTA would serve as the FTA grantee for the project and has provided a letter of support. GDOT has also provided a letter in support of the City's TIP application to ARC.

Alternatives:

Staff has not identified any alternative project in the FY 18 period that would best be suited for federal transportation funding during the 2017 TIP solicitation. The City can forego advancing the Roswell Road/SR 9/US 19 Transit Access Project at this time and not submit a TIP application.

Financial Impact:

Staff has prepared a preliminary cost estimate for funding. In order for the City to be eligible for federal funding, it is required to match funding of a minimum of 20% of the funding requested. Staff estimates the minimum required to match \$6,315,250.00 is \$1,578,813.00, for a total proposed project funding of \$7,894,063.00.

Attachments:

- I. Project Location Map and Cross Sections
- II. GDOT Letter of Support
- III. MARTA Letter of Support
- IV. Windsor Park Community Association Letter of Support
- V. Resolution

ROSWELL ROAD/SR 9/US 19 TRANSIT ACCESS PROJECT

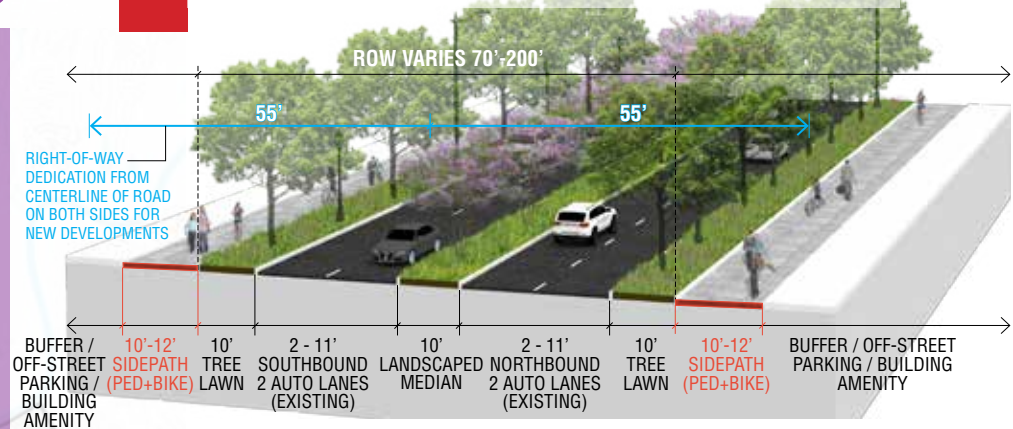


TYPICAL SECTIONS

The character of the boulevard with landscaped medians has been conceptualized in four sections based on existing conditions and proposed future scenarios. For all sections, it is recommended to dedicate 55' of right-of-way from centerline on both sides during redevelopment of adjoining parcels. The additional area should be utilized for better pedestrian, bicycle, buffer and building amenity areas.

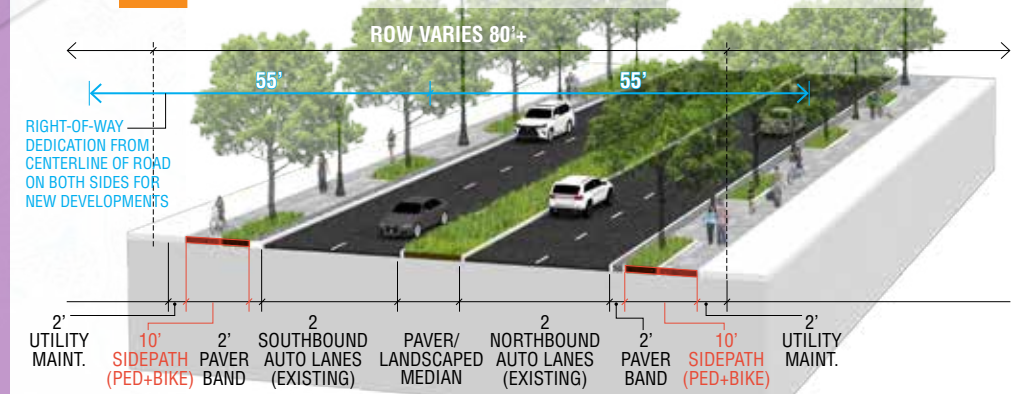
- North River to Abernathy Road**
 This section of the proposed boulevard has the most vegetated/wooded character, which provides a “parkway feel.” It also has the greatest possible amount of right-of-way availability for implementation of the conceptual section.
- Abernathy Road to I-285 (City Springs district)**
 The section is based on the details created during the City Springs Streetscape Overlay Plan and exhibits a “core main street” character.
- I-285 to Mt Paran Road**
 The 2014 Bike and Pedestrian Plan recommends two sets of pedestrian-bike connections along Roswell Road south of I-285. The corridor in this section has adequate right-of-way availability to include both pedestrian and bike infrastructure as compared to the section immediately south of Mt Paran Road. Because of this section’s proximity to the I-285 interchange, GA 400, Pill Hill, Perimeter Center and the on-going City Springs development this area has been characterized as a “crossroads”.
- Mt Paran Road to south gateway**
 This section proposes sidewalk connectivity along the boulevard with bike connection to be provided along parallel routes such as Lake Forrest Road. The right-of-way availability in this section is limited; resulting in the need to eliminate bike lanes in this area. Explore opportunities to integrate sidepath with new developments on the west side of Roswell Road.

ROSWELL ROAD NORTH RIVER VILLAGE TO ABERNATHY

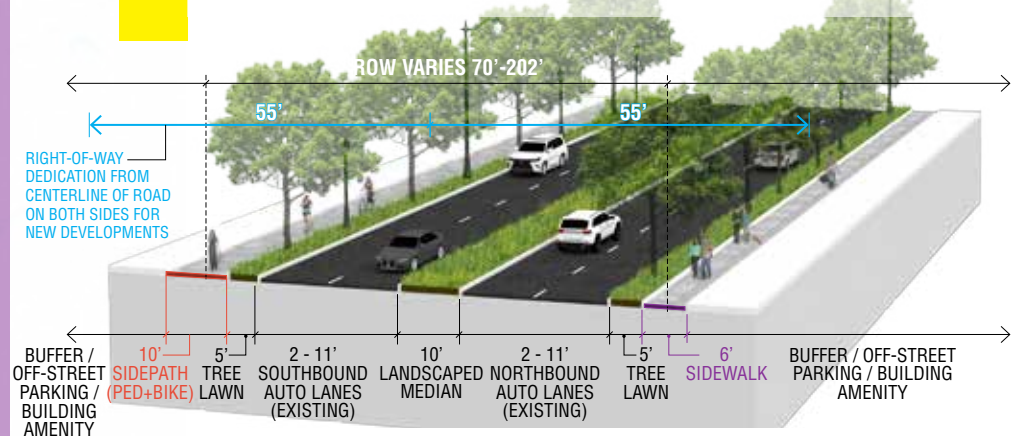


ROSWELL ROAD CITY SPRINGS DISTRICT

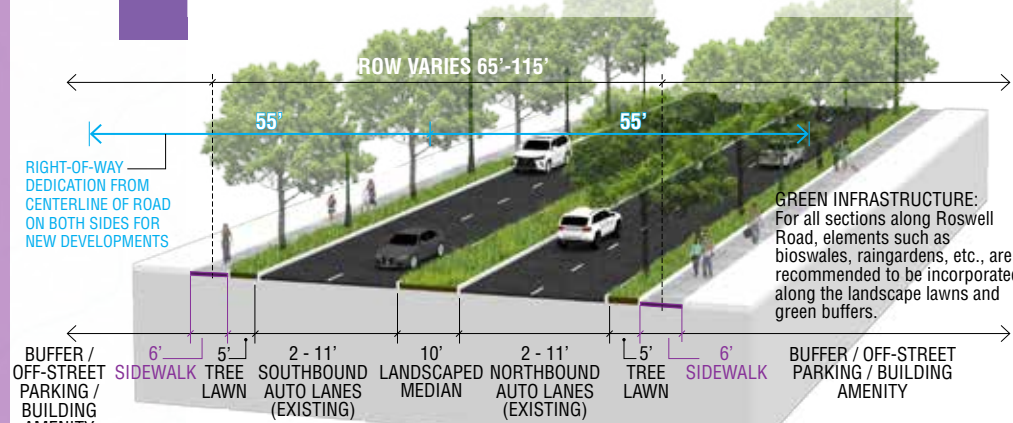
FOR ADDITIONAL DETAILS REFER TO CITY SPRINGS STREETScape OVERLAY PLAN



ROSWELL ROAD I-285 TO MT PARAN ROAD



ROSWELL ROAD MT PARAN ROAD TO SOUTH GATEWAY



Right-of-way information is based on city's GIS data



May 2, 2017

Kristen Wescott
City of Sandy Springs
7840 Roswell Road Bldg. 500
Sandy Springs, GA 30350

RE: GDOT Letter of Support for 2017 TIP Project Solicitation - SR 9/ Roswell Road/ US 19 Transit Access Project

Dear Ms. Wescott:

This letter is in response to your April 28, 2017 electronic correspondence to the Department requesting a letter of support. Thank you for coordinating on this State Route project to improve pedestrian access. The Department hereby supports Sandy Springs pursuing Surface Transportation Block Grant funding, from the Atlanta Regional Commission, for the SR 9/Roswell Rd/US 19 Transit Access Project.

This project is described to provide sidewalks, ADA curb ramps, accessible bus stop pads, streetscape elements (lighting, brick pavers, and landscaping), pedestrian crossing striping, where required on Roswell Road from the City of Atlanta limits to I-285.

Please keep in mind that the Department has not identified any federal or state funding for the project.

We look forward to continue working with Sandy Springs in moving this project forward. If you have any additional questions please feel free to contact Roshni Lawrence at 404-631-1774 or at RoLawrence@dot.ga.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Cynthia L. VanDyke".

Cynthia L. VanDyke
State Transportation Planning Administrator

CLV: rrl

cc: Kathy Zahul, GDOT District 7 Engineer
Don Williams, Senior Director, MARTA

May 11, 2017

Mr. John Orr
Atlanta Regional Commission
40 Courtland St. N.E.
Atlanta, Ga 30303

Dear Mr. Orr:

John

It is our understanding that the City of Sandy Springs is submitting an application to provide 100% walk-up access to transit along the Roswell Road corridor from the City of Atlanta limits to I-285. This application seeks to provide minimum six-foot wide sidewalks, ADA curb ramps, accessible bus stop pads, and streetscape elements (lighting, brick pavers, and landscaping) along the corridor. Construction of this project is critical to MARTA as it improves pedestrian accessibility to MARTA Route 5, which provides daily bus service along the corridor with ridership exceeding one million annual boardings.

The City of Sandy Springs is currently undertaking a sidewalk project with Community Development Block Grant (CBDG) funding to provide pedestrian access from Long Island Drive to Northwood Drive on the west side of Roswell Road/SR 9 as well as an intersection safety project at Glenridge Drive, which will provide sidewalk connections on the east side of the street as well as an intersection realignment. The proposed project will fill the remaining gaps on the east and west sides of Roswell Road/SR 9, upgrade intersection curb ramps and bus stop pads to current ADA standards, and provide pedestrian crossing striping where required.

MARTA supports this grant application and if awarded will flex the funds to the Federal Transit Administration as the sponsor. We look forward to partnering with the City of Sandy Springs on this transformative project.

Sincerely,

Ben Limmer

Ben Limmer, AICP
Assistant General Manager Planning

cc: Kristen Wescott, City of Sandy Springs Transportation Planning
France Campbell, City of Sandy Springs Director of Traffic & Transportation
Garrin Coleman, City of Sandy Springs Director of Public Works
Marty Martin, City of Sandy Springs CIP Unit Manager
Matthew Fowler, GDOT Assistant Planning Administrator

Project Description:

The Roswell Road/SR 9/US 19 Transit Access Project will provide a minimum six-foot wide sidewalks, ADA-accessible curb ramps, accessible bus stop pads, and streetscape elements (lighting, brick pavers, and landscaping) to provide 100% walk-up access to transit on Roswell Road from the city of Atlanta limits to I-285. The corridor is served by MARTA Route 5, which provides daily bus service. The annual weekday ridership of Route 5 exceeds one million annual boardings. Currently, the city is undertaking a sidewalk project with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding to provide pedestrian access from Long Island Drive to Northwood Drive on the west side of Roswell Road/SR 9 as well as an intersection safety project at Glenridge Drive, which will provide sidewalk connections on the east side of the street as well as an intersection realignment. The proposed transit pedestrian access project will fill the remaining gaps on the east and west sides of Roswell Rd/SR 9, upgrade intersection curb ramps and bus stop pads to current ADA standards, and provide pedestrian crossing striping, where required.

May 8, 2017

Atlanta Regional Commission
40 Courtland Street, NE
Atlanta, GA 30303

RE: 2017 Regional Transportation Improvement Program Project Solicitation
Roswell Road/SR 9/US 19 Transit Access Project for the City of Sandy Springs
from the City of Atlanta to I-285

To whom it may concern:

Our neighborhood is located on the Roswell Corridor near the intersection of Roswell Rd and Windsor Parkway. We understand that the City of Sandy Springs is seeking federal funding to improve the sidewalks along Roswell Road. We support this project because it's currently difficult to walk along Roswell Road to stores and restaurants. There's a worn path along the side of the street in many places. It's not easy to navigate on foot between grocery stores and our residences. It's not safe to walk along Roswell Road because it lacks adequate sidewalks, and there are obstacles to walking along the shoulder, such as landscaping and uneven ground.

In addition, it's not easy to access the MARTA bus stops, and people waiting for the bus often have to stand in a muddy puddle after it rains. With the new Sandy Springs City Hall up Roswell Road near Mt. Vernon Highway, being able to walk to the bus means we will be able to take a bus to City Hall or the new performing arts center and restaurants instead of driving.

We hope that the Atlanta Regional Commission will consider awarding funding to this very important project.

Sincerely,

Jane Kelley
President, Windsor Park Community Association

STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF FULTON

**A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AN INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT APPLICATION
TO THE ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE 2017 REGIONAL
TRANSPORTATION PLAN, TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
AND MAKE A COMMITMENT FOR LOCAL FUNDING MATCH**

WHEREAS, the City of Sandy Springs' adopted Transportation Master Plan; Roswell Road Livable Initiative Study; Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Trail Plan; The Next 10 Comprehensive Plan; and Roswell Road Small Area Plan have recommended pedestrian access and streetscape enhancements on Roswell Road/SR 9/US 19 between the City of Atlanta limits to I-285;

WHEREAS, the City of Sandy Springs initiated the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) project T-0019, Roswell Road Streetscape, in 2009 to initiate concept design of pedestrian improvements and streetscape;

WHEREAS, the City of Sandy Springs has completed or is in design of pedestrian access and streetscape projects that complement the proposed Roswell Road/SR 9/US 19 Transit Access Project; and

WHEREAS, there is a desire to complete the pedestrian network on Roswell Road/SR9/US 19 between the City of Atlanta limits and I-285, and the proposed project would complete the sidewalk network to provide 100% accessible sidewalks to neighborhoods, businesses, schools, and MARTA Bus Route 5 bus stops;

WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) supports the City of Sandy Springs' application to the Atlanta Regional Commission for the proposed project;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANDY SPRINGS, GEORGIA

That they approve the submittal of an application to the Atlanta Regional Commission for the 2017 Regional Transportation Plan, Transportation Improvement Program Project Solicitation for the Roswell Road/SR 9/US 19 Transit Access Project; and

Commits to providing local matching funding of 20 percent of up to \$1,700,000.00, for a federal grant match of up to \$6,800,000.00 (80 percent) for a total of \$8,500,000.00 for project implementation.

RESOLVED this the 16th day of May, 2017.

Approved:

Russell K. Paul, Mayor

Attest:

Michael Casey, City Clerk
(Seal)